



ROPEX • BUFPEX Awards  
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Eastman Kodak Perfin • Goya on Stamps  
• New Issues and Covers

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Spring has arrived, the snow is finally gone, and the lilacs are about to bloom. In Rochester that can only mean one thing: ROPEX is upon us. As most know we are moving to a new venue this year, the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, just off Route 332 and just north of the Canandaigua town center. It will be a familiar venue style for many. The center is a hockey rink in the winter and a convention center in the summer.



The facility is easy access and offers ample close parking. Lighting should be excellent (you cannot play hockey in the dark!). The center promises us a well stocked snack bar. Assuming a nice spring weekend, the drive to the facility from wherever you are coming should be a pleasant one.

But the venue is not all that is new this year. We are welcoming a few coin dealers into the show to accommodate those of us who collect both stamps and coins. We have decided to charge our standard \$2 admission on Friday and Saturday only. On Sunday with shorter hours and potentially reduced dealer inventory, admission is free. Of course, all RPA members receive free admission any day of the show, yet another of the multitude of benefits that comes with RPA membership.

Over 20 dealers are signed up to show their wares. That is more than 30% more than last year and portends a great atmosphere for you to expand your collections, learn more about your special philatelic interests, meet fellow collectors, and develop relationships with new dealers. A full list of ROPEX 2015 dealers can be found on the [ROPEX web page](#)

RPA welcomes the national convention of the Auxiliary Markings Club. They are bringing several exhibits into an overflowing collection of nearly 200 frames that will fill a quarter of the rink. We have 32 separate competitive exhibits comprising 156 frames. In addition to the competitive exhibits, the show includes three Court of Honor exhibits including John Hotchner's 10 frame award winning US Auxiliary Marking exhibit. Check out the [ROPEX web page](#) for a full list of the exhibits including synopsis and title pages.



RPA President Rich Spinelli addresses club members on April 9th. Notice the material on the tables? It was auction night and as soon as all club business was dispensed, the fun began. What is it they say at Ollie's "Good stuff cheap", well as long as a fellow club member doesn't cherish that same lot! Photo by George Fekete

## President's Message



My fellow RPA Members,

You are aware that the sale of our current meeting venue, The Brighton Reformed Church on Blossom Rd., has been pending for some time. We have just recently been notified that the sale closing has occurred and that the new building owners will NOT rent to us beyond June of this year. Your board has begun the process of seeking a new venue for the 2015 - 2016 season and beyond and has a couple of interesting leads. However, any suggestions you might have will be appreciated and fully considered. Our meeting site should be centrally located, be able to handle 40 or more people, have excellent lighting, ample chairs and tables and be available the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Also, we require a storage room of 100 sq. ft. or more, preferably away from our meeting area. Please submit your suggestions to any RPA officer. We will follow through.

One lead we now have is the Jewish Community Center on Edgewood Rd. We are in the process of attempting to schedule our May 28th meeting there to give all members a chance to review this venue. You will be informed prior to the meeting whether this will occur.

The board has recently completed upgrading our membership list. All current paid and life members will be able to vote in this year's election. Candidates for election to President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and one Board of Director position must submit in writing to our current Recording Secretary by May 28 their intent to run. An election ballot will subsequently be sent to each voting member.

See you at Ropex May 15, 16 and 17!!!!

**Your President, Rich Spinelli**

## Upcoming RPA Meetings

As per the President's Message watch for news regarding meeting location in May and June. Or check with us at ROPEX for an update. Meetings begin at 7 PM. The first half hour is for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program kicks off at about 7:30 PM.

**Thurs., May 14:** No meeting, It is "ROPEX Eve",  
See you at ROPEX May 15-17

**Thurs, May 28:** "Fakes and Forgeries",  
by George Fekete

**Thurs. June 11:** "Kansas-Nebraska Series on  
Covers" by Mark Scherer

**Thurs. June 25:** Strawberry Night and Annual  
Business meeting with Elections

Come join us. Visit the RPA website for an updated and complete list of our programs and to view many of our past programs.

## BUFPEX Awards

The annual Buffalo Stamp Show (BUFPEX) was held in early March. Eleven dealers and 40 frames of exhibits highlighted the event. The following exhibits were placed by RPA members:

*The Diversity of Ceramics and Ceramic Materials*  
by Tom Fortunato

*A Philatelic Trip Through Norway* by Fred Haynes

*What's a Telephone For?* By Ada Prill

*Identification of the United States Large Bank Note Issues* by Robert Meegan

*The United States Bank Note Issues* by Robert Meegan.

Ada's exhibit was awarded most popular by those attending the show. Robert Lighthouse's exhibit entitled "1898 Canada Map Stamp: A Plating Study" was judged best in show. Robert presented his detailed study of this stamp to the RPA last November.

<http://www.rpastamps.org/presentations/canadaxmas.pdf>

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For those who missed our Stamp Quiz meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>, here are a couple of the questions.



1. How much postage is this ? Is it:

- A. 46 cents      B. 49 cents      C. 51 cents  
D. 53 cents      E. 56 cents

OK, so that was too easy? Try this one:



2. How much postage is this ? Is it:

- A. 18.4 cents      B. 21 cents      C. 16.2 cents  
D. 17.2 cents      E. 19.3 cents

Go to page 4 for the answers.

To see the full 20 question quiz go to the meeting page on the website.

## Exhibit Night 2015

Following on last year's successful single page exhibit program, the competition was expanded this year. At our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, members submitted two or three page themed exhibits. They would be judged on overall presentation, best research, and best title page. Everyone could be an exhibitor and everyone was a judge. We ended up with had 9 exhibitors and 26 judges!



Judging was taken very seriously as the first wave of judges descended onto the exhibits with their cleverly crafted judge's forms.

The exhibits included:

Small Stamps by Paul Brach

A Tribute to John F. Kennedy by Luis Greiff Jr.

Purple Minerals Majesty by Fred Haynes

Great Britain Free Frank Covers by Rich Spinelli

The American Flag by Dave Robinson

The 14¢ Iceboat Stamp by Ray Stone

The Penny Red by Larry Rausch

The Brown Garfield by Lou Atwell

Manchukuo (Country with No Name) by John Kellas

After the ballots were collected, the scores were tallied by the highly acclaimed, professional team of Carl Miller and Rich Spinelli. The best title page award was a tie between The American Flag exhibit and the Great Britain Free Frank Cover exhibit. In very close votes, Purple Minerals Majesty won both best research and best overall presentation.



"Purple Minerals Majesty"



"The American Flag"



United States Flag Cancels

In January Charlie Adrion discussed flag cancels and how they changed through the years. His full presentation can be found on the meeting page of the club website or by simply clicking on this link.

[Flag stamp presentation of Jan. 22, 2014](#)





## Eastman Kodak Perfin (EK/C) by Larry Rausch

The word PERFIN comes from PERforated INSignia. Perfins originated in Great Britain in the 1860's and were authorized for use on U.S. stamps on May 8, 1908. PERFINS are stamps that have been perforated with designs, initials, or numerals by private business and governmental agencies to discourage theft and misuse. Perfins have appeared on postal paper of more than 200 nations. In the United States alone, more than 6,400 patterns are known to have been used. The number of patterns used around the world exceeds 50,000; 40,000 of which are between Great Britain and Germany. For additional information on perfins go to this website <http://www.perfins.org>

The Eastman Kodak perfin has its use recorded from 1912 to 1940. Below is a sample of these Eastman Kodak perfins



### Quiz Answers from page 3

1. (D)  $15\text{¢} + 18\text{¢} + 20\text{¢} = 53\text{ cents}$
2. (D)  $5.9\text{¢} + 9.3\text{¢} + 2\text{¢} = 17.2\text{ cents}$



One of our members, who shall remain nameless, just had a CAT scan, The doc informed him he had philatelic fever. There is no known cure. The only treatment is to spend more time collecting. Condition is not fatal, but it is most likely a permanent affliction.



At our January meeting Larry Rausch shared some pictures of the good old days of mail delivery. I assume they did not mean an e-mail address in the upper photo. The lower photo is from Gowanda, New York.



## More **ROPEX** News

- Show Hours are: Friday May 15: 11-6, Saturday May 16: 10-5, Sunday May 17: 10-3
- To honor our visiting Auxiliary Marking Club, the show theme this year is "Elvis Presley-Return to Sender" Cachets available.
- The ROPEX awards banquet will be held Saturday evening, May 16, at Schooner's Restaurant, 407 Lakeshore Drive. Cash bar at 6 PM, buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. The menu includes salad, baked ziti with meatballs, sliced prime rib au jus, marinated chicken, salt potatoes, green bean almondine, bread and butter, ice cream, coffee, tea, cash bar. Tickets are \$25. Send payment to Ray Stone, c/o RPA, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206 by May 9. Questions? Call Ray at 585-266-2524.
- The Show Committee could use any and all help during the event. We will need help manning registration and club tables, but even more importantly if you can spare a couple hours (or more) on either Thursday for set-up or Sunday for takedown, please come help us out.



Visit our show website for even more detail:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/rope.html>

If you visit the Canandaigua Post Office you will see this poster advertising ROPEX and the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Show, both of which will be held in the Canandaigua Greater Civic Center.

### Francisco Jose de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828)



Mario Serra addresses the RPA meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> on Spanish court painter Francisco Goya. There was not a large conflagration outside the church windows that night, I had to brighten the photo quite a bit. It was actually colder than .... (you fill in the blank) ... outside that evening, a testament to Mario's topic that we had a good turnout.

Arguably the most important artist of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Goya and his works are depicted on postage stamps from many countries. The U.S. paid tribute to Goya in 1974 (lower right below). You can see Mario's full presentation on our webpage



[Direct link to Mario Serra's presentation on RPA webpage.](#)





## United States – Japan Joint Issue

On April 10, the United States Postal Service commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exchange of flowering trees orchestrated between first lady Helen Taft and the wife of the Japanese ambassador Viscountess Chida. In 1912, Japan gifted cherry trees to the United States and three years later the United States reciprocated sending flowering dogwoods to Japan. Similar exchanges have occurred since.

The two sheets of stamps commemorating the event carry similar but different design. The U.S. sheet on the left features four Forever stamps, two designed by the U.S. Postal service and two created by the Japan Post. The Japanese sheet carries these same stamps but with their current domestic 82 yen postage rate.

## Civil War Series Concludes



On April 9<sup>th</sup> the 5-year long Civil War series concludes with an issue commemorating the Appomattox Court House surrender by Robert E. Lee. The 1895 painting "Peace in Union" by Thomas Nast was chosen to depict the event on a Forever stamp. A second stamp depicted the April 1, 1865 Battle of Five Forks; the Virginia battle that has often been called "The Waterloo of the Confederacy"

The 2015 Special Olympics World Games will be held in late July and early August in Los Angeles. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the US will honor the event with a commemorative stamp highlighting the games logo.



And for the back page, how about a panoramic view of Auction night (April 9<sup>th</sup>) from the back of the room!

*Photo by Dave Robinson*